

# Comments on “Gender Equality and Development: Indonesia in a Global Context” by Lisa Cameron

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# The main messages of the paper

1

Gender equality in Indonesia is about where we would expect given the country's level of development

2

Indonesia has more gender inequality than some neighbouring countries and less than others

3

Indonesia has less gender inequality than the vast majority of Muslim-majority nations worldwide, regardless of level of income

4

Indonesian women's economic participation is low relative to Indonesia's level of development

# The paper has a relatively moderate view on gender inequality in Indonesia compared to others

*This is caused by the deep-rooted patriarchy-influenced social construct which has caused women to be left behind in terms of access, participation, control, and benefitting from development.*

Bintang Puspayoga (2022)

*Indonesia's progress toward gender equality also remains slow because gender mainstreaming is largely aligned with governments or institutions focused on women's empowerment's affairs. This simply reinforces the outdated understanding that gender issues are not mainstream and do not cut across all sectors.*

Antik Bintari (2022)

*..... in this new policy, the government took a very conservative position by only addressing the gender practical needs of women and left out the strategic but also sensitive issues in state policy and society. Instead of transforming those unequal gender relations, the new policy has perpetuated them.*

Muhammad Syukri (2021)

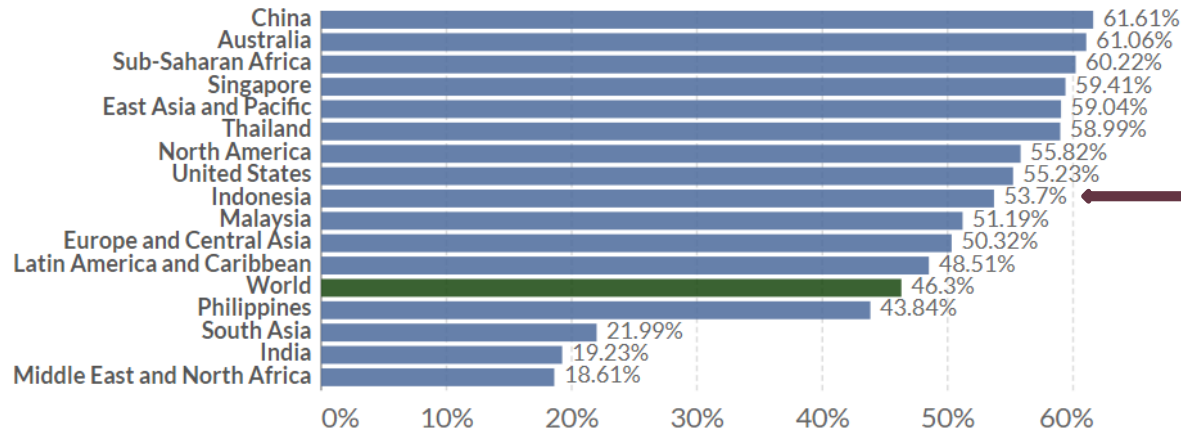
# “Female labor force participation is low” .... Yes, but it is not unique to Indonesia

## Female labor force participation rates, 2021

Our World  
in Data

Labor force participation rate is the proportion of the population ages 15 and older that is economically active.

+ Add country

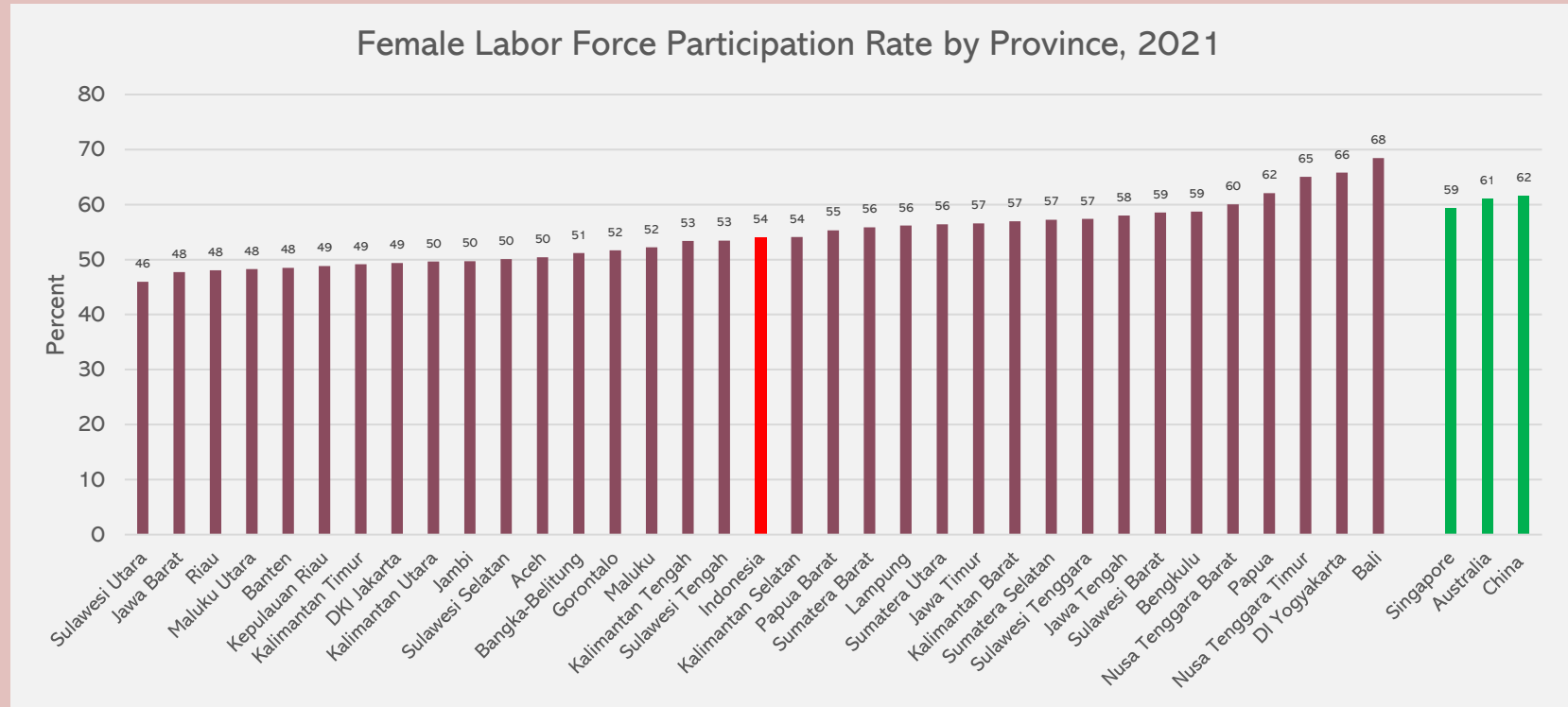


Source: International Labour Organization (via World Bank)

OurWorldInData.org/female-labor-supply • CC BY

Note: All figures correspond to 'modeled ILO estimates' (see source for details).

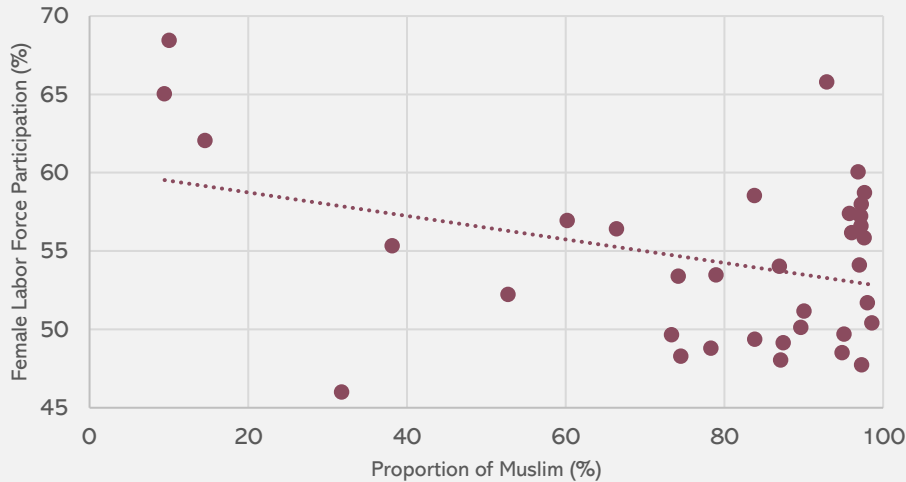
# .... and some provinces have high female labor force participation rate



Source: BPS, Our World in Data

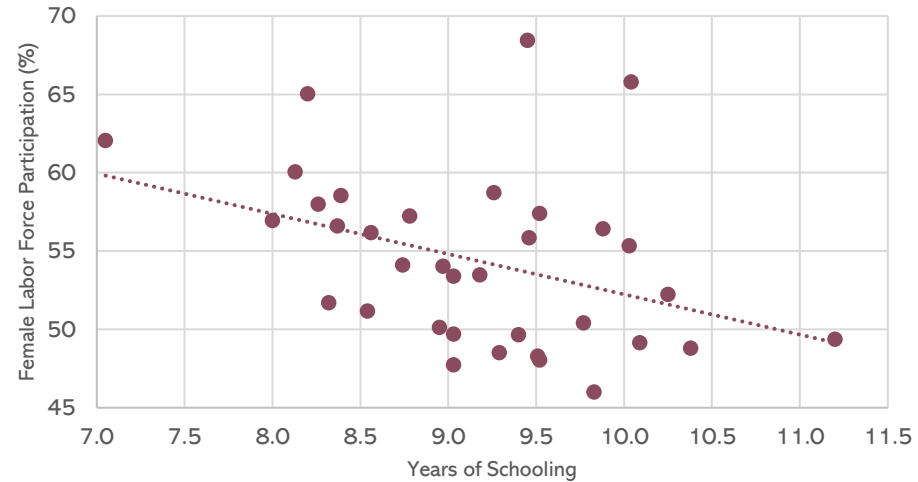
# “Social norms play an additional important role in women’s low economic participation” .... Where do these norms come from?

Female Labor Force Participation & Proportion of Muslim at Province Level, 2021



Source: BPS, Kemenaker

Female Labor Force Participation & Years of Schooling at Province Level, 2021

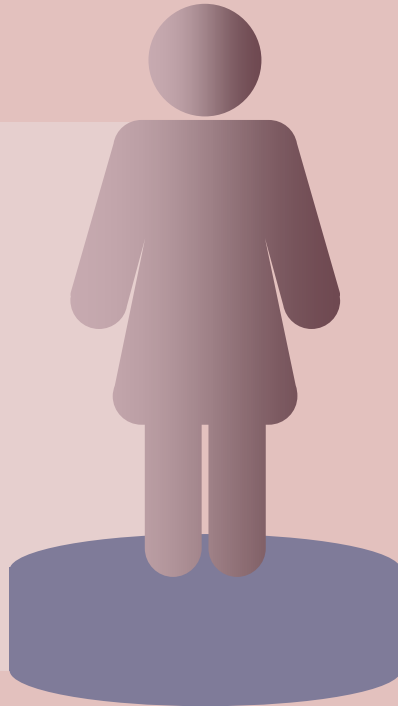


Source: BPS, Kemenaker

# Concluding remarks

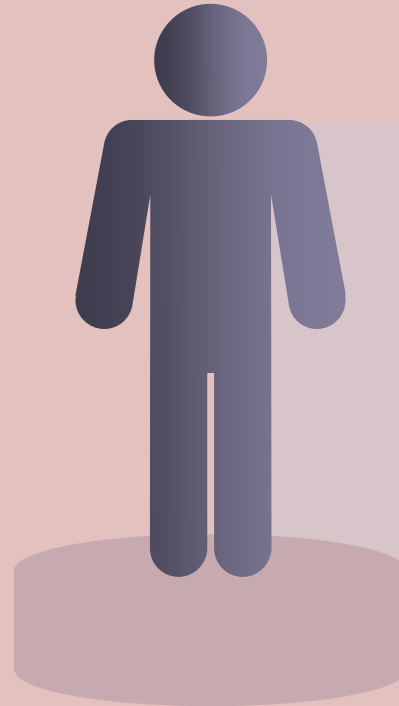
1

The paper is a welcome contribution of an economic analysis on gender issues in Indonesia



2

Hopefully, it will stimulate more research on gender issues by Indonesian economists



# Thank You

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